

Raw FBI Files on Notables Removed

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and Les Whitten**

Raw files, containing sensitive information about Presidents and other prominent people, were sneaked out of the Federal Bureau of Investigation after the death of Director J. Edgar Hoover.

The missing files, according to FBI sources, included reports on the sex exploits of the late President John F. Kennedy, the wheeling-dealing of the late President Lyndon B. Johnson and the flirtations of the late Eleanor Roosevelt.

Hoover kept the files in his personal custody, because he didn't want subordinates reading them and gossiping about the contents. Nevertheless, our sources have seen the files which, they say, were removed by Hoover's faithful factotum, Clyde Tolson.

Our sources stress that the files contain titillating but unverified gossip about famous people. One report, for example, claims that in late 1941 young John F. Kennedy romanced a woman suspected of German espionage. His exploits with the lady occurred in Charleston, S.C., where he was working on a project for the

Navy to protect defense factories against bombing.

Our sources saw nothing derogatory in the files about Lyndon Johnson. But it is understood tapes and memos once existed concerning Johnson's backdoor activities. Some of this embarrassing material, we reported in an earlier column, was removed from the files and sent to him at the White House.

While Eleanor Roosevelt was the First Lady, some of her private conversations were monitored. These contained suggestions that she had carried on dignified flirtations with a former New York state trooper and, later, an Army colonel.

One FBI memo, seen by our sources, reported that President Franklin D. Roosevelt had learned about the colonel and had blurted angrily he should be shot.

In 1937, the FBI conducted a field investigation of Richard M. Nixon after he had applied to become an FBI agent. The report on Nixon wound up in Hoover's safe, although our sources say it was wholly favorable.

The removal of these files, according to statements the FBI has made in court, would be a violation of law.

Footnote: Our sources say that Hoover's trusted secretary, Helen Gandy, handled the sensitive files for him. When we asked her about them, she stated firmly: "All official files were left there." Beyond that, she had no comment. We couldn't reach Tolson, whose friends said he is in too poor health to respond to questions.

Soviet Lobby—A 30-member Russian trade delegation will visit Washington this week to lobby for special tariff treatment. On Feb. 27, for example, the Soviets will breakfast with the members of the powerful Senate Finance Committee.

Capitol Hill sources told us the breakfast session was encouraged personally by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger. The State Department denied this, but Finance Committee Chairman Russell Long's office admitted "the suggestion came to us from downtown."

President Nixon is pushing strongly for special trade relations with the Soviet Union despite widespread congressional opposition and the expulsion of author Alexander Solzhenitsyn.

The President's purpose is to promote the Soviet-American detente. But behind the warm

handshaking, as sometimes happens, is the cold cash of GOP contributors who stand to benefit from the new policy.

American business leaders, who hope to profit from the trade between the two superpowers, contributed heavily to the Nixon campaign. Among them are Pepsico's Donald Kendall who donated more than \$24,000 to the Nixon campaign chest and Occidental Oil's Armand Hammer who contributed \$46,000 in cash.

Traffic Safety—While 55,000 Americans are dying every year in automobile accidents, the federal agency that looks after traffic safety is disregarding deadlines for drawing up safety regulations.

Ralph Nader, in a private letter to Administrator James B. Gregory of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, complained that it took a court order last year to force the agency to issue used-car and tire-quality inspection standards that should have come out in 1968-69.

A spokesman for Gregory told us that the agency lacks the funds and data to meet its deadlines.

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